

ABSTRACT

The present invention discloses useful peptides and synthetic pulmonary surfactants, as well as methods of making and using same. In one preferred embodiment, a synthetic pulmonary surfactant comprises one or more pharmaceutically acceptable phospholipids admixed with a polypeptide comprising at least 10 amino acid residues and no more than about 60 amino acid residues, said polypeptide including a sequence having alternating hydrophobic and hydrophilic amino acid residue regions. In other embodiments, a surfactant peptide has an amino acid residue sequence selected from the group consisting of

KLLLLKLLLLKLLLLKLLLLK, KLLLLLLLLKLLLLLLLLKLL, and KLLLLLLLLKLLLLLLLLKKL.